

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05558 111552Z

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SUBJ: EMBASSY COMMENT ON SPANISH DRAFT CHAPTERS ON SCIENCE
& TECHNOLOGY

REF : MADRID 5383

1. THE HASTILY PREPARED DRAFT TRANSMITTED BY REFTEL COVERS THE SAME GROUND AS THE ORAL PRESENTATION MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTRY TO U.S.WORKING GROUP ON JULY 3 WITH ONE EXCEPTION: SPACE RESEARCH IS NOT MENTIONED.THE HEAVY EMPHASIS ON APPLIED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY REMAINS. THE SUBJECT AREAS FOR COOPERATION WERE APPARENTLY SELECTED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY ITSELF AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITHIN GOS. SELECTION CRITERIA APPEAR TO INCLUDE: PRIORITY GIVEN THE SUBJECT AREA IN THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, U.S.LEADERSHIP IN THE SUBJECT AREA OR SPECIAL FIELD, LIKELIHOOD OF CONTINUING INTEREST AND SUPPORT IN THE SPANISH LEAD AGENCY FOR EACH SUBJECT AREA AND SUFFICIENTLY WIDE SPECTRUM OF ACTIVITIES SO THAT ALL TECHNICAL AGENCIES HAVE AT LEAST A CHANCE OF GETTING SOMETHING OUT OF THE AGREEMENT.

2. THE ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISMS PROPOSED ARE SKETCHY BUT AT LEAST INDICATE A WILLINGNESS TO ESTABLISH A FORMAL PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK,LAMENTABLY LACKING FOR NMA IN THE CURRENT AGREEMENT. DEPARTMENT HAS COPIES OF MATERIAL PREPARED BY EMBASSY AS INFORMAL TALKING PAPERS
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PAGE 02 MADRID 05558 111552Z

WHICH WERE DISCUSSED WITH LARROQUE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY.

FURTHER DISCUSSION AND ELABORATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE WHOLE AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED.

3. THE SPECIAL PROGRAMS REQUIRING SEPARATE PROTOCOLS TO BE ANNEXED TO THE AGREEMENT ARE THE SPECIAL "JOINT VENTURES" TO WHICH LARROQUE HAS BEEN REFERRING FOR SOME MONTHS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES. THERE IS AN EASY MATCH OF INTERESTS IN NUCLEAR ENERGY BETWEEN ERDA AND THE JUNTA DE ENERGIA NUCLEAR, BUT SOLAR ENERGY WILL REQUIRE SOME EXPLORATION BEFORE THERE CAN BE MATCHMAKING. THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR ENERGY OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY IS THE LOGICAL LEAD AGENCY, BUT THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (CSIC) HAS A CLAIM TO SOME PART OF THE EXTION, AS DOES THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING. NSF/OIP CAN SUPPLY A COPY OF THE REPORT OF THE BILATERAL SOLAR ENERGY WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR HELD IN MADRID THIS JUNE WHICH WILL PROVIDE SOME INSIGHTS INTO THE SITUATION HERE. OCEANOGRAPHY ALSO REQUIRES SOME EXPLORATION, THERE BEING TWO SPANISH CIVILIAN AGENCIES ACTIVE IN OCEANOGRAPHY: THE SPANISH INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY WHICH IS IN THE MERCHANT MARINE PART OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, AND THE INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH, WHICH IS PART OF THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE. IT IS LIKELY THAT BOTH WOULD BE INVOLVED, WITH LEAD AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY AT LEAST NOMINALLY ASSIGNED TO THE FIRST.

4. SPECIAL FUND ACTIVITIES INCLUDE AGRICULTURAL STUDIES,MUCH ALONG THE LINES NOW BEING PURSUED BY THE USDA UNDER THE CURRENT AGREEMENT. ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN STUDIES ARE LIKELY TO BE AREAS IN WHICH PROPOSALS WOULD BE INVITED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE, WITH AT LEAST SOME DEGREE OF COMPETITION FOR FUNDS UNDERSTOOD. THE SUBARTICLE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY,METROLOGY ETC. SEEMS OUT OF PLACE. IT IS CLEARLY THE JUNTA DE ENERGIA NUCLEAR'S BUSINESS , AN EXTENSION OF ACTIVITIES NOW BEING CARRIED OUT WITH THE USNRC OUTSIDE THE CURRENT AGREEMENT. IRRIGATION,MENTIONED UNDER AGRICULTURE, COULD BRING IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 05558 111552Z

MORE THAN THE PRESENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS WITH THE U.S.BUREAU OF RECLAMATION. EMBASSY IS TRYING TO DISCOVER WHAT IS MEANT BY SUBSIDIZED SALES OF AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES FOR SOCIAL OR CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

5. CLEARLY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS EXPECTING A VERY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN U.S. COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

IN NON-MILITARY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, EVEN FOR THE SPECIAL FUND ACTIVITIES. THE MATERIALS GITN TO MR. ROWELL WHICH WERE PREPARED FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BY ONE AGENCY IN ONE MINISTRY ARE INDICATIVE OF THE LEVEL OF FUNDING LIKELY TO BE SOUGHT, POSSIBLY ON THE ORDER OF \$10-15 MILLIONS A YEAR FOR THE SPECIAL FUND ALONE. THE PROMISED MATERIALS FROM OTHER AGENCIES HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED HERE.

6. SCIATT WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH OWRKING GROUP MEMBERS ON AUGUST 17 AT HOTEL FOR MUTUAL BRIEFING. FOREIGN MINISTRY PLANS TO HAVE ITS EXPERTS AVAILABLE FOR SCIENCE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS STARTING AUGUST 18 IF HEADS OF NEGOTIATING TEAMS SO DESIRE.
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